



March 13, 2014

**Re: Appeal of Accommodation Decision for Westgate School
in letter dated March 4, 2014**

There are competing values whenever the Calgary Board of Education enters discussions with parents regarding school and/or program designations for their children. These competing values, coupled with the fact there is finite space in Area IV schools, means there is not one solution that all stakeholders will support.

The appeals received from parents focus on two main themes:

- concern about the middle school configuration and overcrowding at Bishop Pinkham
- request that the Spanish Bilingual program be re-located to Viscount Bennett for September 2014.

After careful consideration, I find that the decision reached by CBE administration, and shared with parents and the public through the letter of March 4, is reasonable.

We have determined there is sufficient reason to delay a grade configuration change for both the French Immersion and the Spanish Bilingual programs at Westgate School for the 2014-2015 school year. Our reasoning is based on the information received by the CBE about the availability of Glenmeadows School. For the coming school year, the school principal and her staff will continue to optimize spaces for student learning and examine creative ways of organizing the school. The transition of students from elementary to middle school is supported through the work of the principals and teachers of both Westgate and Bishop Pinkham schools.

Should you choose to appeal to the Chief Superintendent of Schools, please do so by email as phone calls and voice mail will not be registered as appeals. Email within five business days of the date on this letter to chiefsuperintendent@cbe.ab.ca.

Calvin Davies
Director, Area IV

Copy Kelly Christopher, Principal, Westgate School
Michelle Howell, Principal, Bishop Pinkham School
Darlene Unruh, Director, Planning & Transportation
Naomi E. Johnson, Chief Superintendent of Schools